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SCIENTISTS URGED TO BE FORTHRIGHT

Nobel Unit Head Bids Them
Speak Out to Politicians

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Special to The New York Times.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 16 — Prof. Arne Tiselius, head of the Nobel Foundation, suggested today that scientists themselves might help deter the misuse of science if they would speak out more.

Professor Tiselius, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1948, said "scientists as well as politicians are to blame for the state of the world today."

He called on his colleagues to tell the politicians not only what they knew as scientists but also what they believed would happen if their discoveries were wrongly used.

He said that the "dictator type" was the most inclined to brush such warnings aside and abuse science but added:

"If scientists agree among themselves—which I think they could do at international meetings—that certain misuses of science should be prohibited, it might be more difficult for dictators to go against such an internationally proclaimed view."

Recent Call Expanded

Professor Tiselius made these remarks in an interview in which he expanded on his recent call for an "international moral code governing the use of scientific results." This proposal was the key point of his address at the Nobel Prize ceremony here last Sunday.

He suggested today that such a moral code might eventually be formulated in the United Nations with the backing of the leading scientists of the world.

But he emphasized that his purpose had not been to present a detailed proposal. He said he had intended only to state the critical problems facing the world.

He wanted to call attention to the fact that even if man is successful in banning the use of nuclear weapons and in working out a code of conduct in space, "many, many problems" still remain.

He said dangers to civilization would continue to arise "in other fields again and again and again" unless some control over the use of science could be exercised.

It is for this reason that he

said in his speech that a moral code was imperative "if life is to be still worth living or if we are to survive at all."

Weapons' Spread Feared

Professor Tiselius noted that at this stage only the big nations could afford to manufacture the latest "weapons of mass destruction." But he envisaged a day when small groups of scientists—and even individuals — could make and apply discoveries equally if not more dangerous.

As a prime example he mentioned the possibility that the current ability to influence the heredity of bacteria might some day be applied to humans.

Professor Tiselius expressed the belief that if scientists were "brave enough" to speak out they would come to be listened to more and more.

"I think people will realize that their fate and the fate of their children and of their country is to a growing extent in the hands of scientists," he added.